

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 8 to 15 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper and cited references.

II. Objection to the Drawings

As regards the objection to the drawings, the Examiner will note that the Specification has been amended herein to change “an armature 14” to --a magnetic coil 14-- on page 4, line 6. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present objection has been obviated, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

III. Objection to the Specification

As regards the objection to the Specification, as indicated above, the Specification has been amended herein to change “an armature 14” to --a magnetic coil 14-- on page 4, line 6. No new matter has been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present objection has been obviated, and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection of Claims 8 to 11 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 8 to 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,621,788 (“DeLew et al.”). Applicants respectfully submit that DeLew et al. do not anticipate the present claims for at least the following reasons.

Claim 8, as amended herein without prejudice, recites an annular sealing element provided on an armature which cooperates with a seating plate to form a sealing seat, a plurality of outflow orifices in the sealing plate being closed via the sealing element when the valve is closed. Support for this amendment may be

found, for example, at page 4, line 32 to page 5, line 3 of the specification. DeLew et al. disclose only a conical tip sealing body (referred to as “convergent elastomer tip 32”) with precisely one outflow orifice 26 formed immediately downstream therefrom. As such, DeLew et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, a) an annular sealing element which cooperates with a seating plate to form a sealing seat or b) a plurality of outflow orifices.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that DeLew et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features of claim 8. As such, it is respectfully submitted that DeLew et al. do not anticipate claim 8.

As for claims 9 to 11, which depend from claim 8 and therefore include all of the features of claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that DeLew et al. do not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the same reasons more fully set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 8.

V. Rejection of Claims 8, 9, 11, and 13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 8, 9, 11, and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,089,467 (“Fochtman et al.”). Applicants respectfully submits that Fochtman et al. do not anticipate the present claims for at least the following reasons.

As indicated above, claim 8, as amended herein without prejudice, recites an annular sealing element provided on an armature which cooperates with a seating plate to form a sealing seat, a plurality of outflow orifices in the sealing plate being closed via the sealing element when the valve is closed. Fochtman et al. disclose only a semispherical closing body with precisely one outflow orifice 41 formed immediately downstream therefrom. As such, Fochtman et al. do not disclose, or even suggest a) an annular sealing element which cooperates with a seating plate to form a sealing seat or b) a plurality of outflow orifices.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Fochtman et al. do not disclose, or even suggest, all of the features of claim 8. As such, it is respectfully submitted that Fochtman et al. do not anticipate claim 8.

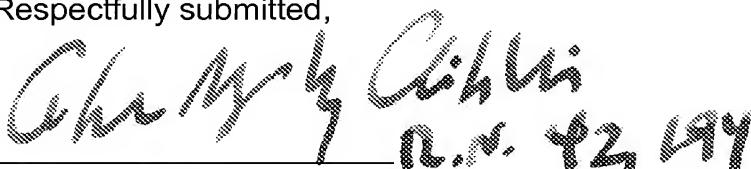
As for claims 9, 11, and 13, which depend from claim 8 and therefore include all of the features of claim 8, it is respectfully submitted that Fochtman et al. do not anticipate these dependent claims for at least the same reasons more fully set forth above in support of the patentability of claim 8.

VI. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

No fees are believed to be required in connection with this paper. Nevertheless, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any and all fees that may be required in connection with this paper or this application, including any required extension of time fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17(a) or 1.136, to the deposit account of Kenyon & Kenyon LLP, Deposit Account No. **11-0600**.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 16, 2007

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